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Book Reviews.

The Records and Letters of the Apostolic Age. By ERNEST DEWITT BURTON
Professor of New Testament Interpretation in the University of Chicago
New York : Charles Scribner's Sons. 8vo., pp. 238.

Only recently there appeared in one of our leading religious weeklies this question : "Will you please give me the chronological order of the New Testament books ?" A definite, clear, final answer to that question is not yet possible, but for help in study, there certainly is possible a very much better arrangement than our Testaments, English or Greek, now offer. All careful, scholarly attempts, therefore, to assist us in this way, by putting the materials in the best shape for use, are to be cordially welcomed and appreciated. Every life of Paul, has of course, sought to do this, but it is well to have simply the arrangement of the facts preparatory to the studying and making of our own lives of Paul. Professor Burton's book aims to give precisely this. His three-fold task is "to give each of the several letters and the Revelation a position, in relation to one another, and to the narrative of the Acts, corresponding to the point in the history at which each was written ; to glean from the letters and from the speeches, in the book of the Acts all the narrative material they contain, and to place this at the points corresponding to the time of the events narrated ; to divide the whole history into its natural periods and divisions."

As a whole the book is characterized by careful discrimination, cautious statement, and scholarly thoroughness. Its aim is specific and well guarded ; its method simple and clear. That it is open to criticism in its conclusions regarding the date and position of some of the books as, *e. g.*, the Revelation, 1 and 2 Peter, is simply to say that scholars are by no means agreed regarding the dates of these writings. The vexed problems of the chronology of the apostolic age offer opportunity again for differing judgments. The positions of the book however are those of a wisely conservative criticism — and there is evident allthrough, the study of the best recent literature upon the subject. The plan of the work is admirable. It gets the true lines of cleavage in the history of the Acts, and presents them clearly to the eye. So much for general criticism, which can be only commendatory. When we pass to statements of detail, there are some matters, which, apart from the assumed conclusions regarding the dates of certain books beget questions. Let us take first, the identification of Acts 15: 1-29 and Gal. 2: 1-10 on page 37 ; Professor Burton accepts, provisionally, at least, the location of the Galatian churches in the southern part of the Roman province of Galatia (p. 213). In that case they were established upon his first missionary journey (Acts 13: 14 ff), which followed soon after

his return from the relief visit to Jerusalem (12:25). One of the points in the Epistle to the Galatians which Paul strenuously insists upon, is that he had not received anything from the older apostles in the way of instruction or commission. His reference to his visit to Jerusalem is to prove this. If, however, the visit of Gal. 2 is the same as that of Acts 15 the very contrary of what he was seeking to establish appears. Notwithstanding the honored names which stand for this identification, it makes very serious difficulties in the narrative. Paul made the two visits to Jerusalem referred to in his Epistle to the Galatians before he ever saw the Galatians. He could honestly say then, that when he came to them, he came instructed only from above. That were impossible if one of the Jerusalem visits was the council visit. From this follow other changes. Peter's conduct reported in Gal. 3:11-12 if immediately after his speech at the council, Acts 15:7-11, seems inexplicable (see p. 209). Identify Gal. 2:1-10 with Acts 11:30 and 12:25 and Peter's action is not improbable.

Professor Ramsay gives very cogent reasons why Acts 22:17-21 cannot be identified with the first visit mentioned in Gal. 1:18-24. Again it follows from the harmonization of Gal. 2:1-10 with Acts 11:30 and 12:25, that we must reckon backward fourteen years from this to get the time of Paul's conversion. That would bring us, counting full years to 32 or 33; counting terminal fractions of years as years to 34 or 35. This would result in changes only in the early dates of the Pauline chronology. The author accepts the theory of four Corinthian epistles, two of which have been lost, but it is not easy to see what has been gained by placing the second visit to Corinth before our first epistle, rather than between the first and second. In reference to 1 Peter, 2 Peter, and Jude, he remarks, "It is quite possible that all of these letters were written after the fall of Jerusalem, rather than before." There is more to be said for this judgment than at first appears, the absence of all reference to the destruction of Jerusalem notwithstanding.

It is safe to say that there is not within such brief compass and in such compact form any better guide for the arrangement of materials for the study of the apostolic age than this work. Its lines are drawn carefully and distinctly, and the references to literature if one wishes to pass over these lines into the discussion of New Testament introduction, are full and up to date. The notes bearing upon translation show exegetical care and are very helpful. It is to be hoped that the work will have wide recognition and use. It certainly merits it.

J. S. RIGGS.

The Elements of The Higher Criticism. By ANDREW C. ZENOS, Professor of Biblical Theology in McCormick Theological Seminary. New York: Funk & Wagnalls Company. 1895. Pp. xiii. + 255. \$1.00.

There has been great need of a book like this. Such works as touch upon the subject are either, like Professor Briggs', written in the spirit of controversy